AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) A method for testing a network switch chip having an expansion port configured for transferring data according to a prescribed protocol, the method comprising:

receiving by an external logic unit an expansion port frame from the expansion port via an expansion bus;

generating by the external logic unit a new expansion port frame based on reception of the expansion port frame; and

outputting the new expansion port frame onto the expansion bus for reception by the expansion port of the network switch chip.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step includes changing data within the received expansion port frame to generate the new expansion port frame.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, wherein the changing step includes:

parsing a header of the expansion port frame to retrieve a source address value from a source address field and a destination address value from a destination address field;

inserting the source address value into the destination address field, and the destination address value into the source address field, of the new expansion port frame.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the changing step further includes inserting a new device identifier value, different from a value of an existing device identifier value in the received expansion port frame, into a device identifier field in the new expansion port frame.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4, wherein the external logic unit is implemented using a field programmable gate array.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the external logic unit is implemented using a field programmable gate array.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A test system for testing a network switch chip having an expansion port configured for transferring data according to a prescribed protocol, the system comprising:

an expansion port bus configured for propagation of the expansion port frame having been output by the expansion port; and

an external logic unit configured for generating a new expansion port frame based on reception of the expansion port frame, and outputting the new expansion port frame onto the expansion bus for reception by the expansion port of the network switch chip.

8. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 7, wherein the external logic unit is configured for generating the new expansion port frame by changing data within the received expansion port frame.

9. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 8, wherein the external logic unit is configured for changing data by parsing a header of the expansion port frame to retrieve a source address value from a source address field and a destination address value from a destination address field, the external logic unit inserting the source address value into the destination address field, and the destination address value into the source address field, of the new expansion port frame.

10. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 9, wherein the external logic unit is configured for inserting a new device identifier value into a device identifier field in the new expansion port frame.

11. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 7, wherein the external logic unit is implemented using a field programmable gate array.

12. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving of the expansion port frame includes:

asserting by the external logic unit an expansion port receiver request signal, on a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, to enable the expansion port of the network

switch chip to output the expansion port frame onto a single expansion port transmit data path of the expansion bus, the external logic unit asserting the expansion port receiver request signal until detecting a buffer of the external logic unit has been filled; and

storing into the buffer, during assertion of the expansion port receiver request signal, frame data of the expansion port frame received in prescribed bursts via the single expansion port transmit data path based on a first clock signal received from the expansion port via a corresponding first clock path of the expansion bus.

13. (NEW) The method of claim 12, wherein the outputting of the new expansion port frame includes:

receiving by the external logic unit a second expansion port receiver request signal from the expansion port via a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus; and

outputting second frame data, in response to receiving the second expansion port receiver request signal, in prescribed bursts via a single expansion port receive data path of the expansion bus, according to a second clock signal output by the external logic unit onto a corresponding second clock path of the expansion bus.

14. (NEW) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of outputting second frame data includes outputting, onto a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, a start of burst signal indicating the single expansion port receive data path carries a corresponding burst of valid data.

15. (NEW) The method of claim 14, wherein the receiving of the expansion port frame further includes receiving, from a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, a second start of burst signal indicating the single expansion port transmit data path carries a corresponding burst of valid data.

16. (NEW) The test system of claim 7, further comprising a buffer, and wherein:

the external logic unit is configured for asserting an expansion port receiver request signal, on a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, to enable the expansion port of the network switch chip to output the expansion port frame onto a single expansion port transmit data path of the expansion bus, the external logic unit asserting the expansion port receiver request signal until detecting the buffer has been filled; and

the expansion port frame being received, during assertion of the expansion port receiver request signal, as frame data in prescribed bursts via the single expansion port transmit data path based on a first clock signal received from the expansion port via a corresponding first clock path of the expansion bus.

17. (NEW) The test system of claim 16, wherein the external logic unit, in response to receiving a second expansion port receiver request signal from the expansion port via a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, is configured for outputting the new expansion port frame as second frame data in prescribed bursts via a single expansion port receive data path

of the expansion bus, according to a second clock signal output by the external logic unit onto a corresponding second clock path of the expansion bus.

18. (NEW) The test system of claim 17, wherein the external logic unit is configured for outputting, onto a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, a start of burst signal indicating the single expansion port receive data path carries a corresponding burst of valid data.

19. (NEW) The test system of claim 18, wherein the external logic unit is configured for receiving, from a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, a second start of burst signal indicating the single expansion port transmit data path carries a corresponding burst of valid data.